

after the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States, when locals had no citizen rights and no mechanism for which they could have their own elected representation.

A son of the soil, he was educated on St. Croix, valedictorian of his high school class on St. Thomas, and in 1944 earned his medical degree from Howard College of Medicine. He returned to St. Croix and was eventually Commissioner of Health of the Virgin Islands.

In 1969, Evans was appointed Governor of the Virgin Islands by President Richard Nixon, earning him the distinction of being the territory's last appointed governor, but more importantly, the territory's first Black native governor.

In 1971, he became the governor elected by the people of the Virgin Islands after a 1970 law which allowed residents to elect their governor.

In 1978, he was elected to the House of Representatives in the 96th Congress. And after leaving Congress, he was an Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

Governor Evans personifies the evolution of the political maturity of the Virgin Islands. His life and legacy symbolized not only the extraordinary achievement of Virgin Islanders—given little but striving and attaining much under the American flag—but also the political growth and progress of our Islands from colonial rule to self-governance.

#### — PRAISING PRO-ACT —

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of the Council of Southeast Pennsylvania. The council provides resources and opportunities to reduce the impact of addiction, trauma, and other health-related issues for the five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania through intervention, education, and mobilization.

Established in 1997 by the council, PRO-ACT works to provide advocacy and residence for those suffering from the terrible disease of addiction. Through workshops and peer advocacy meetings for afflicted individuals and families, addiction victims can get back on their feet and learn necessary skills for both recovery and entering the workforce.

I am proud to work with my constituent, Executive Director Beverly Haberle, and her administrative team, Cindy Mikalauskas and Stacey Conaway.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share the words of a man named Jim, who stated that, through PRO-ACT, "A fire was lit inside of me, my spirit rekindled by hope."

Recovery from addiction is difficult, and it is up to remarkable associations like the council to serve the southeastern Pennsylvania community and

make sure that these people can successfully beat this devastating disease.

□ 0915

#### HONORING FOOTBALL PIONEER TOM FLORES

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution for Tom Flores urging he be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Tom Flores had an outstanding and successful career, both as a quarterback and as a head coach. This resolution pays tribute to his inspiring athletic talents.

Flores became the first Hispanic starting quarterback in professional football history and played on two Super Bowl-winning teams. Also, he was the first Hispanic head coach to win two Super Bowls, a feat he accomplished on two separate teams, and he became the first Hispanic manager in the National Football League. He left with an impressive lifetime record and an 8-3 playoff record.

Tom has been a trailblazer for Hispanics in the NFL and has motivated a generation of new players by showing they can compete and win. Let's enter this trailblazer into the Hall of Fame.

#### CONGRESS SHOULD REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL A HEALTHCARE BILL IS PASSED

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call upon the House leadership to not adjourn until we have a healthcare bill.

Respective committees need to meet and walk a new product through regular order. We know what will and will not work, given the voting prerogatives of the Members of this body and the Senate.

We understand the needs of our constituents, regardless of their voter registration.

We understand it is our job to navigate the complexities of this issue on behalf of the American people and come up with a product that makes good on promises that have been made to improve our healthcare system. This will take Republicans and Democrats.

Later this morning, I will be proud to once again gather with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, who are members of the Problem Solvers Caucus, part of no labels, to continue our work seeking a bipartisan solution to what has become, unfortunately, a partisan issue.

I stand ready to make good on these promises and suggest that we remain in Washington until that work is complete.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 114, DEPARTMENT OF VET- ERANS AFFAIRS BONUS TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 480 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 480

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 114) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 480, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee. The rule provides for consideration of S. 114, the Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. The rule also provides for a motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that our Nation's veterans are heroes. They deserve our support, gratitude, and recognition, and they deserve to have the promises we as a nation have made to them fulfilled. Unfortunately, far too often, we fall short of keeping those promises.

Everyone remembers the scandals that shook the Department of Veterans Affairs a few years ago, highlighting critical problems around the country and the need for greater accountability. In the wake of these crises of mismanagement and wrongdoing, Congress created the Veterans Choice Program in 2014 to provide veterans with better options to seek out timely, appropriate care from providers in their communities rather than wade through the outrageous lines, excessive wait times, and subpar medical care at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

The Choice Program isn't perfect, and my colleagues and I are working to fix that, but it has been a meaningful start and a path to quicker, more convenient care for our Nation's veterans. Without congressional action today, we risk leaving our heroes without Choice. That is not a risk I am willing to take.

VA Secretary Shulkin has estimated that more than 1 million veterans in the VA system use some Choice care, and that number is expected to increase this year. In fact, today, more than 30 percent of the VA appointments are made with private sector providers that have the capacity to relieve some of the burden on our servicemembers and the VA clinics. This year alone, more than 18 million appointments with private doctors have been authorized by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If we fail to take action, these veterans will lose their ability to receive prompt care from Choice providers. We would be flooding the VA medical facilities with more patients, even as we know that many facilities are still overburdened and, in some cases, underperforming.

Let me be clear: This is not a doomsday prediction. This is not a Henny Penny moment or Hail Mary effort to pass an obscure bill. If Congress refuses to act today, the Choice Program will expire on August 15.

Chairman ROE has worked diligently to ensure that this does not happen. In the Senate, my friend and fellow Georgian, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, serves as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He, too, has worked tirelessly to ensure our veterans continue to receive care by safeguarding the viability of the Choice Program.

I have to say, the two chairmen, Chairman ROE and Chairman ISAKSON, the body is really at a favor having those two men working, and the ranking members working alongside of them, in this process. So we are continuing to look forward to this bill passing, and many more things to come.

When we understand this, Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that Chairman ROE and Chairman ISAKSON, along with their respective ranking member counterparts, Mr. WALZ and Mr. TESTER, are committed to making the existing system work better for veterans.

I also know that the Choice Program needs reform. However, we can't im-

prove a program that doesn't exist. We must first protect what is good in hopes of making it better.

Today's underlying bill provides additional funds to extend the Choice Program for 6 months and provide a critical \$2.1 billion infusion of funds while we move forward with thoughtful, sustainable reforms.

I have proposed ideas to make those reforms, including the Expanding Access to Choice Act, which prevents bureaucracy at the VA from derailing a functioning Choice program. I authored that bill as a direct response to concerns that were raised by my constituents in northeast Georgia.

I am sure that many Members here today have similar experiences and have heard similar stories from their neighbors, and I am confident many Members want to fix this program. By supporting the rule and the underlying bill today, we are taking a step towards making that happen.

Secretary Shulkin told the Veterans' Affairs Committee that, without additional funding, veterans would wait longer to receive the healthcare that they deserve. That statement should elicit one thing from this body, Mr. Speaker, and that is action.

Yet there are those who would rather we shuffle down the road of inaction than stand for our veterans today, Mr. Speaker. There are some who claim Choice represents a move towards privatization and who have opposed the Choice Program from the beginning.

Let me set the record straight: We are not talking about privatizing the VA today. We are talking about sustaining a program that currently serves hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of veterans across the country. This bill is not about privatization. It is about breathing 6 months' more life into a program that enables veterans to access care more efficiently and effectively.

This is not the time for partisan maneuvers. Our veterans—their very lives—are on the line, and we owe it to them to vote to move forward so that they receive the care we have promised them.

Mr. Speaker, I am currently in the Air Force Reserve, and I have completed a tour earlier in Iraq. I have witnessed our Armed Forces' display of heroism, and I believe their actions deserve recognition. This bill doesn't repay the debt or gratitude we owe our veterans, but it brings us closer to fulfilling our promises by meeting their needs.

The underlying bill authorizes multiple major medical facility leases, including a lease for a facility in Pike County, Georgia. In addition, S. 114 enhances the recruitment, retention, and training of the VA workforce through a number of measures, including encouraging servicemembers with health-related occupational specialties to seek employment at the Veterans Health Administration and expanding hiring authority in the case of severe short-

ages of qualified healthcare personnel candidates.

Mr. Speaker, preserving the Choice Program and the access to community care options that it provides is critical. I agree that we can make this program better, but we have to provide a path to do that.

Already, I have heard from veterans in my district who say clinics are raising concerns about the availability of funds for Choice. We must address this issue today, and we must uphold our promises to America's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For me, this morning, July 28, could be the beginning of a new spirit in the House of Representatives because of what happened last night in the Senate. Since we are talking about healthcare for veterans, I want to just take a moment to talk about healthcare for all Americans.

Last night, we saw a remarkable thing happen. We have had a poisonous atmosphere around healthcare in the United States for the past 7 years. We are the last industrial country on the planet to provide healthcare for the people who count on us for that kind of help and support. We can now give that up.

I hope we can take the majority leader at his word that he sees no further use in trying to beat this bill to death and that we can work together to improve it and get on to other things which we are so in need of.

But I do want to say that I appreciate very much the votes last night. I think Senator McCAIN showed, once again, that he is America's hero. And Senators MURKOWSKI and COLLINS certainly are heroines of mine and I think let us know that women in positions of power can be counted on.

So, yesterday, in the Rules Committee, the majority passed a martial law rule granting themselves fast-track authority so they could get anything through, which I think scared even the Senate.

I read some news reports claiming this was a major victory. It was not a victory for either side fighting viciously over how we want healthcare to be given to our citizens, but it was certainly a victory for the American people, hundreds of whom stood last night here on the Capitol Grounds outside of the Senate begging to be able to continue their healthcare.

Imagine somebody with cancer, going through all of the pain and agony they have to go through, and wondering every day what in the world we are going to do here. Are they going to be left without healthcare, left without care that they can afford?

So I think, without a doubt, this is a good morning for all of us who are in the Congress of the United States to get together and to do better work. And I know of no agency, frankly, that

needs more attention than the Veterans Administration.

My personal experience with them has been somewhat like Whack-a-Mole: we think we have something settled and then suddenly we don't. We have to be advocates for every veteran in our district, directly to the VA, personally, oftentimes simply to get the most simple kind of treatment done for our veterans.

It is my wholehearted wish, and has been for some time, that we will get the Veterans Administration out of the building business, where they are abysmal failures, and let them concentrate on healthcare for veterans, which is their number one issue.

I am very pleased—and let me echo what my colleague, Mr. COLLINS, said—with leadership both in the House and the Senate running the Veterans' Affairs Committees now. Dr. ROE has been an exemplary friend to all of us and understands exactly what we are doing.

So I think this is important, as Mr. COLLINS has pointed out. Veterans Choice has not been very popular in my district. It is so complicated and so complex that it takes a lot of hand-holding even to use it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I am here to support House Resolution 480 that allows for consideration of the Veterans Choice Act.

For a while there, I was confused. I wasn't sure what we were talking about there. I thought we were here talking about the Veterans Choice Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Veterans Choice Act. Our veterans selflessly answer the call to protect our families, our communities, and all that we hold dear. We can never repay our veterans for that sacrifice. But our country, this government, made our veterans a promise to care for them. Mr. Speaker, if we do not act today, we will breach that promise by denying healthcare benefits to those veterans who access it through the Choice Program.

This bill will provide \$2 billion for the Choice Program. Without this step, the Choice fund will be depleted by mid-August. VA Secretary Shulkin has made it clear that community programs are unable to care for veterans who need them if the Choice Program is eliminated.

Sometimes it astonishes me how it is that we wait until the last minute here to address problems like this.

Millions of America's veterans rely on the Choice Program. That is millions of promises we break if we fail to pass this legislation today. We cannot allow these funds to run out and leave our veterans without access to care.

Contrary to critics, today's debate is not about whether to privatize the VA. Secretary Shulkin has openly said nu-

merous times that he has no plans to privatize the Veterans Administration.

Beyond that, today's debate is about people. It is about veterans who already use the Choice Program who would lose access to care if we do not pass this legislation. It is about allowing veterans choice.

□ 0930

Let's not play politics with our veterans. Over the course of the week, the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act has been improved with amendments. It would improve the hiring at the VA by enhancing recruitment, retention, and training of the VA workforce, but to those who continue to have concerns about veterans' choice, I ask we not let perfect be the enemy of good.

I have learned in life nothing is ever perfect. Lord knows I have learned that in business. I have certainly found that to be true about legislation during my short time here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking. We must not allow it to run out and default on the promises we made to veterans. We need to act today.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the underlying bill we will be voting on today. I wish I were able to say that more often.

The bill will fund the Department of Veterans Affairs Choice Program for 6 months and authorize a number of leases for major medical facilities throughout the country, and I echo its major importance.

The next rule we will be considering contains martial law authority that will allow the majority to bring up any bill they want with hardly any notice at all, and I hope we will not use that.

It has been a long week. Let's end it on a bipartisan note with a strong vote in support of this bill before us to help veterans across America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just again reiterate the point of the discussion that this is something we need to take up today. This is not about the peripheral discussions going on concerning Choice, privatization, and other things that have derailed this discussion. I want to see this move forward so we can continue to have viable discussions on Choice, but I would also be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I did not at least address the discussion. The gentlewoman from New York, who I have the greatest respect for, has her opinion; I have mine as well.

I do not believe what happened last night in the Senate was, in her words, heroic. I believe it was basically a failure. It was a failure of process. What happened last night was not anything

except the stopping of a process that could have included Democrats and Republicans in a conference committee, and it was chosen not to move forward. That is the reason we come to this place, is to move forward.

I think when we look at this, the disaster that is ObamaCare, and the reasons that we are now keeping it, and that the healthcare measure has failed, it brings the question to my mind, for the ones who have been helped, and I have never, from this podium or anywhere else, denied that there were many with preexisting conditions and other issues who found help, but, if we remember the promise, the promise was to cover all uninsured. It came nowhere close. The promise was, you can keep your doctor if you liked him, you can keep your plan if you liked it. The promise was that your premiums would go down, and the premiums have gone up.

So for all the supporters, then come to maybe my district or other districts and address those people who have lost their insurance, address those people whose premiums have gone up, address the people like the young lady in Chicago who did get on the ObamaCare exchanges, had a premium that was subsidized, but when she realized that she couldn't afford the deductible, she said: I might as well have not had it.

It is one thing to discuss this in grand terms, it is another to see the result in our system. To talk about the nominal positives against the crushing negatives is not a victory.

So I think we move forward. Today, we have a chance to move forward on Choice, today we have a chance to move forward and look ahead, but I at least say, from this Member's perspective, I don't forget. I understand what I have heard for 7 years.

It has been said many times that the current bill is actually gaining in popularity. Well, I just simply point you to the only polls that have really mattered over the last 7 years, and those are elections, and every time there was an election and this issue was up, ObamaCare lost. I am not sure how you can continue to support, with any kind of a straight face, that kind of abject failure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3180, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018; WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 31, 2017, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 481 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 481

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3180) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of August 1, 2017.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from July 31, 2017, through September 4, 2017—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 7. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar or legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 481, which provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 3180, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing we do in this body that is more important than actions we take for the defense of our Nation. We now face a more complex array of threats than we have at any time since the end of World War II.

North Korea continues to test ballistic missiles, has successfully tested an ICBM, and is continuing to move rapidly towards achieving the capability to strike U.S. soil.

A resurgent Russia is imposing its will across Europe, occupies Crimea, and is now using its military to support the Assad regime in Syria.

China is increasingly belligerent, continues to expand the size of its military and create bases on artificial islands in the South China Sea.

And Iran, Mr. Speaker, continues to work on its ballistic missile program and expand its influence as it supports terror across the Mediterranean and the larger Middle East.

Terrorist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS continue to carry out attacks across the West and threaten the United States.

We have seen a dramatic increase in tensions on the Temple Mount, Mr. Speaker, in just the last few weeks, and we have men and women in uniform deployed around the globe fighting to defend our Nation.

Our intelligence community plays a crucial role in ensuring our decision-makers and our warfighters have the information they need to keep our Nation secure.

H.R. 3180 provides the intelligence community with the authorization it needs to continue working to protect and defend the United States, supports critical national security programs, such as those protecting Americans against terrorism, cyber attacks, and hostile foreign nations. The bill maintains critical congressional oversight of the activities of the intelligence community, and the bill makes no changes to any surveillance authorities, including those set to expire, which we will take up later this year in legislation separate from this bill.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, earlier this week, H.R. 3180 was considered

under suspension of the rules, which is not at all uncommon for bills, like this one, that receive unanimous bipartisan support in committee.

While the bill received well over 50 percent of the votes of the House, it did not achieve the required two-thirds majority to pass under suspension, which is why we are here today debating this rule.

A large portion of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is understandably, as it should be, classified, which requires Members of this body to review the bill in the SCIF.

I want to personally thank members of the Intelligence Committee and their staff for facilitating that process and making it so easy for Members of this House to undertake. A bipartisan notice was sent out, provided to Members, informing us of the availability of the text for review. And the text, Mr. Speaker, was available for 10 days, twice as long as last year's bill.

My staff simply had to call and inform the committee that I would like to review the bill, and the committee asked when I would be available, and they made sure that a member of the committee staff was also there to answer any questions I had.

The process itself was seamless, was very easy, and was facilitated by the members of the Intelligence Committee staff.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good and important bill. It supports the men and women in our intelligence community and the work they do to keep us safe. This is not an issue we should politicize or subject to partisan debate.

The intelligence community plays a critical role in the defense of our Nation, and we need to support them, Mr. Speaker, by supporting this bill. Therefore, I urge support for the rule to allow consideration of H.R. 3180.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate, and I rise to debate the rule for H.R. 3180, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

I was somewhat dismayed earlier this week when my friends across the aisle attempted to jam today's bill through this body by jettisoning regular order and bringing the bill up under suspension.

Luckily, we can add this shortsighted attempt at governing to their long list of legislative failures. And although I may be pleased that their suspension shenanigans failed, my frustration was born anew when we were informed that the bill would come to the floor under yet another closed rule.

This is all bad enough, and I will come back to it in a moment, but first we need to discuss the blanket martial law provision that my friends on the other side put into this rule.

This move, especially when considered in the context of those mentioned